



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 12
- Galatians 1-6
- Ecclesiastes 8:1-6
- II Corinthians 3:7-18

Title:

RELIGIONSHIP or RELATIONSHIP

- Strangle-ism
- Egregious Accusations
- Obstinate Hearts

People love systems and procedures. There is nothing inherently wrong with that. In fact, God designed humans with a built-in recording system, one that can be programmed to memorize systems and procedures to your great advantage. The recording mechanism is the nervous system, with countless interconnections between nerves throughout the body. One property of the system is that the more often you send signals down a certain path, messages that jump in a specific order from one nerve to the next to produce a desired action, the more locked-in that pathway becomes. It's like the busiest roadways in the largest cities; have you seen them? The endless passing tires carve out grooves in the roads. Or, like a river that cuts a channel into a mountain because it has flowed there for a thousand years.

However, what's even more stunning about the nervous system is that if the pathway is not efficient, it will grow new connections, novel pathways that are shorter and straighter, which are then memorized to run on automatic. What advantage does this serve? Well, just think about tying your shoelaces. Or better yet, don't think about it! And that's the point; you don't have to think about it. You have repeated the pattern so often that now all you have to do is initiate the path and it seems to run on autopilot. You can do just about anything and tie your shoes at the same time. People that play musical instruments learn patterns and eventually their fingers do the walking with what appears to be no conscious effort. In both cases it did not start out like that. It was a repetitive step-by-step process, until it became "natural." The pattern of message transmission has, in a sense, carved efficient paths, like tire grooves in a road or river channels through a mountain. And there are so many other examples in which these efficient patterns of message transmission are advantageous: typing, sports, dancing, driving, professional skills, etc. The nervous system learns efficient pathways, builds new connections as needed—then the nerves fire on autopilot to produce consistent reproducible actions—in other words, methodical duplicatable patterns that seem unconscious.

We humans seem to use this type of system-building in just about everything, and most times it is beneficial. However, when we apply these system-building tendencies to relationships, things don't go so smoothly. It seems that humans don't respond well to their connections with loved ones being overridden by an oblivious system that requires no conscious effort, no thoughtfulness. No one wants to be in a mechanical relationship that is built on autopilot—human connections nurtured by "methodical duplicatable patterns that seem unconscious." And let me assure you, nor does God.

When we build our relationship with God into a system of rules and procedures—that is called religion. And when we insist others adhere to our preferred system of rules and procedures—that is called legalism. Legalism is equivalent to strangle-ism. It's the way we choke the life out of our relationship with God. God is not interested in your legalism or your religion; He

is, nevertheless, interested in a relationship. Don't turn your relationship with God into a religion with God. If you do, you will actually be worshiping a God of your own creation, one who would command you to sit back and rest on the Sabbath, while you watch a man suffer. You will have created a God who would prefer you to strictly adhere to Sabbath rules, rather than heal a man who had been suffering his whole life. Trust me, if you think that the Father of our blessed Savior Y'shua would choose Sabbath prohibitions over a man's life, you are in a religion with Him, not a relationship.

PROPHETIC SEED:

"But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. **For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.**" Matthew 12:7-8 NKJV

"Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? **Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.**" Matthew 12:11-12 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV

"Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, **does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**—" Galatians 3:5 NKJV

"For as many **as are of the works of the law are under the curse**; for it is written, "**Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.**" Galatians 3:10 NKJV

STRANGLE-ISM

1. Religion, Legalism and Blindness

A. Backdrop: the Blinding Darkness of Legalism

(1) A step back to go forward... To set the stage we will do a running start from Matthew 11 into Matthew 12!

(a) The last words of Matthew 11...

1. "Come to Me, all you who labor and are **heavy laden**, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am **gentle and lowly** in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My **yoke is easy and My burden is light.**" Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV

(b) Heavy Laden: What made it so heavy? Context is everything!

1. "And this occurred because of **false brethren** secretly brought in (who came in by stealth **to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage**), {16} knowing **that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith** in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law**; for **by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**" Galatians 2:4, 16 NKJV

2. "Stand fast therefore in **the liberty by which Christ has made us free**, and **do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**" Galatians 5:1 NKJV
- (c) A Yoke: Why a yoke? Context is everything!
1. "Now therefore, why **do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?** But we believe that **through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved** in the same manner as they." Acts 15:10-11 NKJV
 2. "And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "**Unless** you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, **you cannot be saved.**" {5} But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "**It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.**" Acts 15:1, 5 NKJV
- (d) Religionship or Relationship
1. "**Do not quench the Spirit.** Do not despise prophecies. **Test all things**; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil." I Thessalonians 5:19-22 NKJV
- (2) The Definitive Word of Legalism—a taste of Galatians
- (a) Let's do a little exploratory surgery into the letter to the Galatians.
1. "I marvel that you are **turning away so soon** from Him who **called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another**; but there are some who trouble you and want to **pervert the gospel** of Christ." Galatians 1:6-7 NKJV
 2. "For you have heard of my **former conduct in Judaism**, how **I persecuted the church** of God beyond measure and **tried to destroy it.** And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, **being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.**" Galatians 1:13-14 NKJV
 3. "And **this occurred** because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth **to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ** Jesus, that they might **bring us into bondage**)," Galatians 2:4 NKJV
 4. "For by **grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them.**" Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV
 5. "knowing that **a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law**; for **by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**" Galatians 2:16 NKJV
 6. "*(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but **the doers of the law will be justified**;*" Romans 2:13 NKJV
 7. "*Therefore **by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified** in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*" Romans 3:20 NKJV
 8. "O foolish Galatians! Who has **bewitched** you that you should **not obey the truth**, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**" Galatians 3:1-2 NKJV

9. "Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it **by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?**—" Galatians 3:5 NKJV
10. "For as many as are of the **works of the law are under the curse**; for it is written, "**Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law**, to do them."" Galatians 3:10 NKJV
11. "**Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.**" "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" Deuteronomy 27:26 NKJV
12. "But that **no one is justified by the law** in the sight of God is evident, for "**the just shall live by faith.**" Galatians 3:11 NKJV
13. "**What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come** to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator." Galatians 3:19 NKJV
14. "**Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.** But the Scripture has confined all under sin, **that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ** might be given to those who believe." Galatians 3:21-22 NKJV
15. "Therefore **the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be **justified by faith**. But **after faith has come**, we are **no longer under a tutor.**" Galatians 3:24-25 NKJV
16. "For **you are all sons of God through faith** in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26 NKJV
17. "And if you are Christ's, **then you are Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:29 NKJV
18. "Now I say that the heir, **as long as he is a child**, does **not differ at all from a slave**, though he is master of all, but is **under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.**" Galatians 4:1-2 NKJV
19. "Even so we, **when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world**. But **when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, born under the law, **to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**" Galatians 4:3-5 NKJV
20. ****"My little children, for whom I labor in birth again **until Christ is formed in you,**" Galatians 4:19 NKJV
21. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and **do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage**. Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to **every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law**. You have become estranged from Christ, **you who attempt to be justified by law**; you have fallen from grace." Galatians 5:1-4 NKJV
22. You see... "**For by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **not of works**, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV

B. The Lord of the Sabbath

(1) Mercy over Sacrifice

(a) Sifting through priorities...

1. "At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!" But He said to them, "**Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread [1 Samuel 21:1-6] which was not lawful for him to eat [Leviticus 24:5-9], nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? [Numbers 28:9-10]** Yet I say to you that **in this place there is One greater than the temple.** But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' [Hosea 6:6] you **would not have condemned the guiltless.** For **the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.**" Matthew 12:1-8 NKJV
2. "You **shall not add to the word** which I command you, **nor take from it**, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV
3. "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things**, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and **if anyone takes away from the words** of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Revelation 22:18-19 NKJV
4. ""For I desire **mercy and not sacrifice**, And **the knowledge of God** more than **burnt offerings.**" Hosea 6:6 NKJV

(2) The Father's Heart: Pay attention, be sensitive to God's Heart for people

(a) I perceive that you are very religious...

1. "Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, **I perceive that in all things you are very religious**; for as I was passing through and **considering the objects of your worship**, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, **Him I proclaim to you:**" Acts 17:22-23 NKJV

(b) All things to all men by all means...for the Gospel's sake!

1. "For **though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all**, that I might win the more; and **to the Jews I became as a Jew**, that I might win Jews; **to those who are under the law, as under the law**, that I might win those who are under the law; **to those who are without law, as without law** (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; **to the weak I became as weak**, that I might win the weak. **I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.** Now **this I do for the gospel's sake**, that I may be partaker of it with you." I Corinthians 9:19-23 NKJV

(c) The Law of Liberty

1. **“Receive one who is weak in the faith**, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. **Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats;** for God has received him... {13}Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, **not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.** I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. **Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.”** Romans 14:1-3, 13-15 NKJV

C. Healing on the Sabbath

(1) Doing Good on the Sabbath

(a) Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?

1. “Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, **“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”**—that they might accuse Him. Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? **Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.**” Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.” Matthew 12:9-14 NKJV

(2) Apologetics when one Law is in conflict with another...

(a) Knowing the heart of God... Sabbath vs. Circumcision

1. “The people answered and said, “You have a demon. Who is seeking to kill You?” Jesus answered and said to them, **“I did one work, and you all marvel. Moses therefore gave you circumcision [Leviticus 12:3] (not that it is from Moses, but from the fathers), and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath [Exodus 20:8]. If a man receives circumcision on the Sabbath, so that the law of Moses should not be broken, are you angry with Me because I made a man completely well on the Sabbath? Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”**” John 7:20-24 NKJV

(b) The controversy!

1. “And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin **shall be circumcised.**” Leviticus 12:3 NKJV
2. “Remember the Sabbath day, to **keep it holy.**” Exodus 20:8 NKJV

D. The Chosen Servant

(1) He has His eyes on the Gentiles

(a) Y’shua does everything with prophecy in mind!

1. “But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. Yet He warned them not to make Him known, **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet**, saying: “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, **And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.** He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, And

*smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; **And in His name Gentiles will trust.***" Matthew 12:15-21 NKJV

(2) Prophecy: Matthew 12:18-21 & Isaiah 42:1-4

(a) Line-by-Line Comparison

1. "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles." **Matthew 12:18** NKJV
 - a) "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles." **Isaiah 42:1** NKJV
2. "He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets." **Matthew 12:19** NKJV
 - a) "He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street." **Isaiah 42:2** NKJV
3. "A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory;" **Matthew 12:20** NKJV
 - a) "A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth." **Isaiah 42:3** NKJV
4. "And in **His name Gentiles will trust.**" **Matthew 12:21** NKJV
 - a) "He **will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.**" **Isaiah 42:4** NKJV

(b) What follows in Isaiah was precisely Y'shua's ministry and ours!

1. "Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: "I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; **I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles,** To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. **I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another,** Nor My praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, **And new things I declare;** Before they spring forth I tell you of them." **Isaiah 42:5-9** NKJV
2. "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that **blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**" Romans 11:25 NKJV

EGREGIOUS ACCUSATIONS

2. A House in Conflict

A. A House Divided

(1) Don't make the same mistake these religious people make!

(a) He who is not with Me is against Me!

1. "Then one was brought to Him who was **demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him,** so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "**Could this**

be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, **"This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."** But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: **"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.** If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. **How then will his kingdom stand?** And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. **But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.** Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first **binds the strong man?** And then he will plunder his house. **He who is not with Me is against Me,** and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad." Matthew 12:22-30 NKJV

B. The Unforgivable Sin

(1) You've gone TOO FAR!

(a) Y'shua delivers one of His most difficult messages...

1. **"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.** Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; **but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him,** either in this age or in the age to come." Matthew 12:31-32 NKJV

C. Treasure of the Heart

(1) The Diagnosis: fruit never lies!

(a) Bad trees yield bad fruit and good trees yield good fruit.

1. **"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.** But I say to you that for **every idle word men may speak, they will give account** of it in the day of judgment. For **by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."** Matthew 12:33-37 NKJV

OBSTINATE HEARTS

3. No Room for Change

A. The Sign of the Prophet Jonah

(1) Three Days AND Three Nights

(a) The Disease of Religionship: one denomination at time—Heavy Laden instead of Revelation; a Yoke of Bondage instead of Freedom!

1. **"Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."** But He answered and said to them, **"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.** For as Jonah was **three days and three nights** in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they

repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here." Matthew 12:38-42 NKJV

2. "Then she said to the king: **"It was a true report which I heard** in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; **and indeed the half was not told me.** Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard." I Kings 10:6-7 NKJV

B. Open Doors

(1) Demonic Strongholds

(a) If you don't fill your heart with God...

1. **"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man**, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, **he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.** Then he goes and **takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself**, and they enter and dwell there; **and the last state of that man is worse than the first.** So shall it also be with this wicked generation." Matthew 12:43-45 NKJV
2. "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.** For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them." II Peter 2:20-21 NKJV

C. The Will of the Father

(1) Faith is like cement!

(a) True Family

1. "While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, **His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.** Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You." But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! **For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.**" Matthew 12:46-50 NKJV

D. Relationship with the King!

(1) Religionship or Relationship: Context is Everything!

(a) Even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect...

1. "But if **the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious**, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, **how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.** For **even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels.** For if **what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.** Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great

boldness of speech— unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of **what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.** But even to this day, when Moses is read, **a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.** Now **the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.** But **we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,** just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Corinthians 3:7-18 NKJV

(b) Let's take it step-by-step (so you can learn relationship instead of religionship)!

1. “I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. **And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. **Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.** Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! **But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good,** so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. **For we know that the law is spiritual,** but I am carnal, sold under sin.” Romans 7:9-14 NKJV

(2) Religionship or Relationship: Context is Everything!

(a) Do not be in a hurry to leave the king's presence!

1. “Who is like the wise? Who knows the explanation of things? A person's wisdom brightens their face and changes its hard appearance. **Obey the king's command, I say, because you took an oath before God. Do not be in a hurry to leave the king's presence.** Do not stand up for a bad cause, for he will do whatever he pleases. **Since a king's word is supreme, who can say to him, “What are you doing?”** **Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure.** For **there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a person may be weighed down by misery.**” Ecclesiastes 8:1-6 NIV

“COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM GENTLE AND LOWLY IN HEART, AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT.””MATTHEW 11:28-30 NKJV